

**South Dakota National Guard**  
**Public Affairs Office**  
2823 West Main St.  
Rapid City, S.D. 57702

Phone 605-737-6721  
E-mail [PAO@sd.ngb.army.mil](mailto:PAO@sd.ngb.army.mil)

Aug. 1, 2007  
PAO 08-01-07

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Rapid City Guard unit moves through Transformation**

RAPID CITY, S.D. - The South Dakota Army National Guard will be officially activating the 109<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Group and deactivating the 109<sup>th</sup> Engineer Group during a ceremony at 2 p.m. MDT on Saturday, Sept. 8, at the Range Road Armory in Rapid City.

The public is encouraged to attend.

The newly formed Regional Support Group's mission is to provide command and control of assigned or attached units in a theater of operations. During peacetime, the 109<sup>th</sup> RSG will manage a force structure of more than 880 Soldiers and be comprised of the 152<sup>nd</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, the 881<sup>st</sup> Troop Command, the South Dakota Medical Command, Training Site Command and the 82<sup>nd</sup> Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction).

The 109<sup>th</sup> Engineer Group was originally organized in 1956, and shares its earliest lineage with the 109<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Sturgis. Up until the point of the current Transformation, the unit was comprised of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 109<sup>th</sup> Engineer Group, the 109<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, the 153<sup>rd</sup> Engineer Battalion and its subordinate units with a combined authorized strength of 1,219 Soldiers.

Prior to the Sept. 8 ceremony, a variety of military equipment and memorabilia will be on display in and around the armory. That evening, there will be a pig roast dinner to celebrate the event at the Elks Club in Rapid City, at 6 p.m. Specially designed commemorative coins will be available for sale at the armory.

Those interested in attending the ceremony and/or dinner must contact Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Susan Shoe at (605) 737-6313 or [susan.a.harris@us.army.mil](mailto:susan.a.harris@us.army.mil) no later than August 17. There will be a cost of \$12 for the meal. Dress is casual for the dinner.

The unit is collecting and organizing pictures, documents and memorabilia for historical purposes. If anyone has anything that might be of interest regarding the lineage and honors of the 109<sup>th</sup> Engineer Group, please let the unit know.

Event schedule:

- Noon - 2 p.m. - Military equipment and memorabilia on display (Range Road Armory)
- 2 -3 p.m. - Deactivation / Activation Ceremony (Range Road Armory Parking Lot)
- 6 p.m. - Dinner at the Elks Club (Rapid City, SD)

-30-

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** More releases will be provided by the South Dakota National Guard Public Affairs Office as the Guard moves through its Transformation.

### **Transformation**

Transformation is part of a national strategy to redesign units within the National Guard to meet the future needs of the active component. The South Dakota National Guard is adapting to this change as well. Its former role was to provide a strategic reserve to the active component. Today it is an operational force directly integrated into active component deployments and missions.

The active component is converting from a division structure to a smaller, lighter brigade structure. The division was the smallest self-contained unit able to deploy. This has been replaced by the brigade combat team. In addition, the move from a track vehicle force to a wheeled force. This is the new modular Army structure for the future and the brigade is now the smallest self-contained unit with multi functional capability.

In addition to its active component obligation, the South Dakota National Guard will be able to provide in-state mission capability and response. To be flexible enough to complete both missions, the National Guard of the future will contain essential core joint capabilities. Each state will be organized in this manner. Units will be transformed in order to meet the new state National Guard structure.

The core joint capabilities are:

1. Joint force Headquarters-command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (C4ISR). Reception, Staging and Onward Integration (RSOI).
2. Civil Support Teams (CST)
3. Maintenance
4. Aviation

5. Engineer
6. Medical
7. Communications
8. Transportation
9. Security
10. Logistics

**NOTE 1:** Since the terrorist attacks on America, the South Dakota National Guard has mobilized more than 2,900 Soldiers and 700 Airmen in support of the Global War on Terror.

During the peak of deployments, South Dakota had more than 1,500 Soldiers in Iraq at one time.

Currently, more than 150 Soldiers and Airmen from the South Dakota National Guard remain on duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. More than 4,000 National Guardsmen are available in South Dakota to provide support for state and national emergencies and homeland defense.